

# THE ASHES

## Historian Pluck Rising Superior to the Great Calamity.

### THE DEER RAPIDLY VANISHING.

## Bankers Recovering Their Safes and Treasures.

### MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

## Governor Washburn Calls a Special Session of the Legislature.

### MAYOR GASTON'S VIEWS.

## Chief Engineer Damrell on the Horror of the Conflagration.

## SCENES IN THE CITY.

## Moral Cant and Rum Shaking Hands Over Misfortune.

## Business Men Determined to Follow Out the Golden Rule.

### Boston, Nov. 12, 1872.

A morning of cloudiness, with light rain occasionally, ushered in to-day. The throngs which were visible yesterday seemed in no way diminished. From an early hour the streets surrounding the region of the fire were visited by thousands of sight-seers. The hotels report themselves filled with guests, and in the vestibules and on the foot-paths in front of them crowds of men gathered in the interchange of information and speculation. There was naturally a great deal of the former, in view of the fact that men who have changed their business locations by force of fire are in great need of communicating the fact to their commercial relations. Speculation is ripe, too. It calculates, with a sort of nicety, on the standing of firms and insurance companies, and the probable action of the Legislature in the matter of laying out the streets anew. "This consummation devoutly to be wished" is commented on, with the latest information in its regard, in another part of this despatch. It will be a great good to the city if prosaic straight lines are substituted for the

curved lines of beauty, poetry and incongruity which resulted from the haphazard policy that dictated the building of this old city parent of New England. In the burned district there was, of course, little change from the appearance of yesterday. The same evidences of destruction remained in the same quarter. The tall, gaunt, jagged pillars of brick and stone that remain standing, like white teeth, were only a day older; the debris of stone blocks and bricks, that literally has not left a square yard of pavement visible throughout the heart of the district, was heaped and tumbled in the same profusion of misery.

**THE MILITIA.**  
As volunteers, as they prefer being called, were out in full force to-day, doing their part of the work with moderation, firmness and efficiency. Until daybreak they were picketed all over the city, and so continue. They guard all the approaches to the fire region. A mistaken idea obtained circulation through the city that martial law had been proclaimed. This was not true, the fact being that an arrangement was entered into between Chief of Police Savage and Brigadier General J. S. Burrill for the protection of the citizens' property. This plan, of course, has the approval of the Governor. A strict lookout was kept for the thieves, who are here in large numbers, no person being allowed to cross the lines unless provided with a printed pass, signed by Acting Adjutant General N. Moore and countersigned by Brigadier General Burrill. To preserve his civic character it bears the stamp of the City Clerk. The work of

**CLEANING OUT THE BUILDINGS**  
has already commenced, but there is, as explained elsewhere, a general reluctance to build until it is known where the new street lines will be drawn. This is the only feature that looks like a drawback to the resumption of business in the old locality. The local papers are filled with advertisements of the places where temporary offices have been secured. A feature of the papers to-day is a series of articles on Mansard roofs, which French innovation has received a sweeping condemnation. They are arraigned, and justly, in the form in which they have existed here as aerial lumber yards, and they are for some time here for years to come. When men gaze upon

**THE GREAT GRANITE FLAKES**  
which started off the facades of their buildings with cracking reports, and the general ruin before them, they think of their folly in surrounding solid stone edifices with inflammable material. It may be mentioned, also, that the masses, when they view the few standing ruins of granite house fronts, looking as though they were remnants of some old decayed pillars which had heaved the stones of three thousand years, after their own night's agony in the flames, begin to lose their faith in Quincy granite. The scenes on the streets were very lively. All Boston and Boston's neighbors seemed to be on their principal thoroughfares, and curiosity was the principal feature. The great drive in Boston marched in couples along Washington street, led by the crowd, but cheerful and piquant all the time.

**THE INFUX OF OUTSIDE PEOPLE**  
continues, one train from Springfield bringing forty-one cars, drawn by three engines. Truly the hubbub of flame has as much attraction for the country folks as the Jubilee of Gilmore, whose lonely mauveville lies far away from the fire.

As I was passing along Washington street among the crowd I noticed that there were some high walls standing which, if a strong wind arose, would assuredly fall. The crowd did not notice this, but the authorities saw it later, and ordered that portion of the street to be cleared. A ride in the hands of a militiaman went off about the same time and hurt nobody. The militiaman was the most frightened. About noon to-day a curious informal order was circulated from the Mayor, ordering all the bars to be closed. As no bars are supposed to exist, under the law, it is a curious commentary on

**CART AND RUM SHAKING HANDS OVER MISFORTUNE.**  
The burned-out newspapers share, if they do not lead, the enterprises of the burned-out people. The *Franklin* published to-day from the office of the daily *Globe*. Pat Donahoe, of the *Pilot*, has secured a temporary office and started the next number of his paper and the *Emigrant* Bank together. The *Saturday Evening Gazette*, the oldest weekly on the Continent, will also resume. The *Warwick* Magazine, with the same pluck, will publish as usual its roll of fire-and-blood stories, of impossible love and outrageous daring.

**THE SITUATION AT THE LATEST HOUR TO-NIGHT**  
is a happy and promising one. A Boston characteristic rain storm has raged all the evening, and the smoldering embers which have been regarded with fear and trembling are now losing their bril-

lancy and terror. The rain set in about eight o'clock, and for an hour the aqueous mist came down in a perfect deluge. Its effect upon the flames here and there was magical as well as providential, and the firemen and the debris seemed to combine for the salvation of the unfortunate city. Everything now promises a subjugation of the fire, and the citizens, exhausted and tired, go to their beds with a feeling of security. The only special event of the day has been another gas explosion, which occurred this afternoon at Summer street, near Hawley, which caused for the moment considerable excitement in the vicinity. A large opening in the street was the result of the explosion, but no casualties resulted.

### MUNICIPAL MEASURES.

**Mass Meeting of the Citizens To-day To Adopt Resolutions Asking for Action by the Governor and Legislature—The Credit of Boston for the Alleviation of the Financial Distress—Interviews with the Mayor and the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department—How His Force Was Managed During the Season of Horror—The Plans for Rebuilding the Burned Region and Re-establishing the Business of the Hub.**  
BOSTON, Nov. 12, 1872.

The terrible excitement that was raging in the city on Sunday and Monday has at last reached its pause. Everybody whom one meets has an appearance of calmness and composure which seems in comparison very singular and almost unnatural. Although the minds of the citizens have not yet recovered fully from the shock of the great calamity they seem now to be stunned into a strange quiet by the magnitude and intensity of the terror and horror, the remembrance of which is like that of a mad and distorted dream. The full extent of the loss is now beginning to be definitely realized, and when this is done the panic will in all probability be renewed and will mount to its highest pitch. The dreadful view of thousands of individuals within and without the circle of the hideous fire will be terribly apparent.

**PROPHESY OF HELP ARE POURING IN**  
from all parts of the country, and this event promises to call forth greater exhibitions of sympathy and generosity than even the devastation of Chicago, which was more terrible in the destruction of human lives and of human habitations. People at a distance seem more able to fully picture to themselves the sad results of the loss of so many millions of those immediately interested, and that need of succor which here is not yet felt in all its intense significance. The vision of the fiery tempest just past is too palpably present to admit yet of a genuine sense of the duller pains of grief and want which, soon enough, will follow on its track of ruin and ashes. The municipal officers, however, seem fully

**ABOUT TO THE EXTREMES OF THE MOMENT,**  
and are engaged in planning the best and most proper means for alleviating the suffering and ruin. Evidently they have gone about the work with the most painstaking energy.

To-day at eleven o'clock I walked through the shifting and eager throng that fills Court square hourly to the door of the City Hall, where I passed several groups of military and police officers on duty. The yard had been made a bivouac for two nights by the detachment of militia that has been kept here on guard through the whole time of excitement and danger. I mounted the main stairway, which, together with the corridors, is peopled with negro sentries and walked along the crowded halls. Arms are stacked on the mosaic pavement and the scene impresses one with a recollection of the time of battle and siege. The council room of the city fathers was filled with officials and many of the aldermen, who were discussing the one subject which is now paramount even to that of the horrors of the fire—the means of resuscitating the prostrated business of Boston.

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**READING AND ANSWERING TELEGRAMS**  
which are constantly received from other cities, and which contained offers of relief for the business men and the ruined families of burned Boston. In response to my question, "What are the measures which you propose to take after the consequences of the fire?" he said:

"The first step has been to call a public mass meeting at Tremont Temple to-day; but owing to the magnitude of the advertising it will not now be held until twelve o'clock to-morrow."

"What will be done at this meeting?"

"We shall pass resolutions favoring a special session of the Legislature, asking them to grant us authority to give the city credit to individuals who are great losers, to enable them to re-erect the buildings destroyed or to occupy the stores in the burnt district which are not entirely ruined."

"Suppose the burned region will be built up somewhat differently than it was before the fire?"

"Undoubtedly."

**WE SHALL ASK THE LEGISLATURE**  
to provide for new street improvements, so as to greatly better the topography of the city."

"The loss to the holders of insurance risks must be such as to break down many corporations, is it not?"

"It will ruin many of our local companies and greatly cripple others in adjoining States. We shall also ask for legislation to render aid to these to meet their liabilities. If most of them can pay fifty per cent of their policies I think that the majority of the rich houses who did business in those finest streets of the city which were burned can pull through and survive the shock. But ruin for some is now inevitable, although the generosity of our sister cities is already beginning to astonish us. Chicago sends us promise of about \$300,000 already; and we have similar messages, proportionate in value, of good cheer from Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence, Cincinnati and hundreds of other cities and towns. The humanity of this age among the classes higher in morality is strangely contrasted with the brutality among the lower ones, and this is a fact which was brought out in sad prominence in the present instance. The

**BOWDING, CUTHBERTS, THIEVES AND RASCALS**  
of all the festering spots of crime in our vicinity have docked around us like hyenas, who lounge over the dead corpses which they devour in the desert when the storm has swept by with death-dealing breath.

"What do you suppose is the number of dangerous persons who have visited Boston since the beginning of the fire?"

"We can tell little about it except from reports, many of which, I think, are exaggerated. I do not believe there were 5,000 here, as was stated by some of the press, but there were probably several hundreds. They were a very ugly crowd, indeed, and but for the strong precautions that were taken last night by the soldiery and the police I do not think we should have escaped having a good many burglaries and fresh acts of incendiarism."

"What do you think of the manner in which the police and the military have managed the fire?"

"They could not have performed their duty better and with nobler persistence and courage. We have been promptly whipped with reinforcements from other cities, and they have fought the flames side by side with our own men in the worst of the conflagration, and have endured the terrible fatigue with a

city and State authorities, that we can certainly fully protect every street and house."

"I suppose, your Honor, that you yourself saw a great deal of the hardship of battling with the fire?"

"Well, the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department wanted me to share with him the responsibility of the occasion, and I accompanied him in his movements and saw a great deal of the hardship of battling with the fire."

**INTERVIEWS WITH THE CHIEF ENGINEER.**  
Among the many reasons that for the fearful conflagration of Saturday night the one you will most frequently hear mentioned is the want of demoralization of the Fire Department and the lack of judgment shown by Chief Engineer S. Damrell in withdrawing several of the best engines from the engine and having them worked by hand. Numerous charges have been brought against the Chief, which are not confined to individuals, but have been leveled against the building in which it first broke out. The most contradictory rumors in connection with this phase of the disaster are floating around. Our

correspondent named Harshorn, with whom I conversed, said he had not been for suggestions he made relative to the blowing up of buildings, which were having found entrance into the minds of some of the people. General Burt, the Postmaster, claims that he had not been for a similar calamity would have ensued, and that the fire would have been contained within the limits of the burned district. The other side of the question is that the fire would have been contained within the limits of the burned district. The other side of the question is that the fire would have been contained within the limits of the burned district.

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any one point which could show precisely where the limit of the fire was. Up Franklin street the fire came, one building after another pouring flame out of its windows, and in a short time crushed down two hundred yards being made in a few minutes. The fire spread rapidly from house to house, and the fire spread rapidly from house to house.

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